

CURRENT TOPICS

RECIPROCITY WITH Canada as provided for in the agreement with the Canadian government was laid before congress in a special message from the president. This agreement is the result of the negotiations that have been in progress for the past ten months. By its provisions the United States removes duties amounting to \$4,850,000, while Canada remits duties amounting to \$2,500,000. Concerning the agreement the Associated Press says: "It provides a notable abatement of duties on a number of American products consumed in Canada. Prominent among these is bituminous coal, which is now exported to Canada to the value of several million dollars annually. There is also a much better opening for American farm machinery and implements. No less than ninety-one per cent of the Canadian goods imported into the United States will benefit by considerable reductions of duties. The intention of the commissioners to remove duties on printing paper and wood pulp was effected so far as the Dominion government could do it outside limitations existing in the laws of the Canadian provincial governments imposing export duty on wood cut on crown lands in Canada, but the American duty will lie only on the comparatively small proportion of Canadian pulp or wood cut on such crown lands. The agreement, to become effective, must be shaped as a law amendatory of the existing tariff acts in the United States and in Canada and it will require sharp work to accomplish this, so far as congress is concerned, in the brief period of time remaining of the present session."

CONCERNING THE New York senatorial fight the Albany correspondent for the New York World said: "One report current is that the origin of several postal cards and circulars attacking Mr. Sheehan on religious grounds had been traced to some of his indiscreet friends who had attempted to take advantage of the alleged opposition to him because of his religious views. Both insurgents and friends of Mr. Sheehan were vehement in their protestations of lack of knowledge concerning the origin of these circulars."

RIGHT REV. P. A. LUDDEN, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Syracuse, gave out the following signed statement of his views on the deadlock at Albany over the election of a United States senator: "According to our theory and system of government the majority rules, or is supposed to rule. That's our boasted system, and American patriots ought to stand by that system or expatiate themselves as do the Astors and other apostate patriots. Why is the business of our legislature obstructed by the unseemly and unreasoning quarrels now going on about the election of the United States senator? Put down the answer and explanation. Bigotry and the old spirit of know-nothingism. Neither is yet dead and both are very much alive, although poorly and only transparently disguised. Daniel Dougherty, the famous author and lecturer, used to relate that when once on a time he was a candidate for some political office an Irishman met him and said: 'Mr. Dougherty, you have no show for election. Because you are an Irishman and that's agin' you; and you are a Catholic, and that's agin' you; and your name is Dougherty.' Now, this is an illustration of our state democratic quarrels over the election of a senator of the United States. 'Why?' asked Mr. Dougherty. 'I don't know exactly what the Tammany democracy means in contradistinction to others of the state democracy, but I do know that without the democrats of the great city of New York the other democrats of the state couldn't elect a single state official, great or little. The real meaning of the opposition led by the Osbornes and others against New York democrats led by Murphy, is that of the Irishman above stated. 'You are an Irishman and that's agin' you; you are a Catholic and that's agin' you, and your name is Murphy.' It's well enough to have Murphy and Tammany and New York democrats elect our governor, and in driving out the republicans, place in office democratic state officials, draw the chestnuts

out of the fire and shake the plum tree; but for reward they must be content with severe slander and abuse. Poor, ill-fated democracy! Nationally and locally it is unfortunate; it is composed of strife, discord and contention. In my travels through Ireland some years ago I passed by a pound, a well known cattle prison, in which the landlords used to imprison the cattle of tenants who were unable or not prompt in paying the rent. At this time the only occupants were two donkeys. The creatures were in a condition of starvation and yet they were pawing and fighting each other to death. Our democrats are emblematically long-eared, and while they are starving politically they are at each other's ears and fighting for spoils never within their reach."

AFTER THE election of Mr. Martine of New Jersey Governor Wilson said: "I think that the gratification of the state in the result will be chiefly based upon the knowledge that henceforth the selection of United States senators will be upon an entirely different basis. The people will know that henceforth they are to make free choice of their United States senators on their own responsibility. This situation is in the line of the manifest movement of public opinion all over the country." Being informed of his election to the senate Mr. Martine said: "This contest has been for a principle—one vital to our country and to the future of self-government. The victory is not that of an individual, but of the people. The significance of the result obtained in the legislature today, under the impulse of an honest application of a system of direct primary voting, is that the people welcome—in fact, demand—the privilege, the right, of choosing members of the United States senate by popular vote."

FOR THE THIRD time the Texas legislature elected Charles A. Culberson to the United States senate. Senator Culberson acknowledged the honor in a graceful and forceful speech. In that speech the senator said: "In the recent campaign the party, after many defeats, won a decisive and memorable victory because it stood for its basic and structural philosophies of government; because it represented progress in such matters and insisted upon the people taking a larger and more direct share in public affairs; and because it demanded that trusts should be destroyed, that corporations should be regulated and controlled and that selfish and special interests should no longer dictate legislation to burden and oppress the masses. In that contest new nationalism was strangled. The proposition which this dogma involves, to merge the executive, legislative and judicial functions, as well as the whole reserved power of the people, into a supreme executive who should be steward of the general welfare unrestrained by positive law, has been the argument and dream of every tyrant since the world began. Against it, the instinct, the intelligence and the patriotism of the people rebelled, and they turned again with enthusiasm to the ancient democratic faith which fears and would restrain all power, which would separate and make independent the three great departments of government, which champions the reserved rights of the states and which would limit federal authority to the enumerated grants of the constitution. Not for half a century have these fundamental principles of democracy met such emphatic and pronounced approval by the suffrage of the American people."

IN THE SAME speech Senator Culberson said: "I cannot resist the belief that another of the controlling influences in the late election was the position of the democratic party that there should be a distinctly forward movement in the interest of popular government, and its insistence that the part of the people in public affairs should be greater and more direct than heretofore. Not alone were our principles and policies approved and a signal victory achieved. The future of the party is pregnant with high hopes, and just and reasonable expectations. The house of representatives is ours, the presidency is within our grasp, and the senate itself, which for

nearly half a century has been the refuge and fortress of the tariff barons and the money changers, is trembling in the balance. Yet to accomplish these things we must be faithful to our promises to the people, we must be loyal to our party principles, and we must turn our faces resolutely to the future, putting no reactionaries in front or in authority in our line of battle. If we follow this course and press courageously our undoubted advantages there is every prospect that constitutional government will be re-established and the people themselves restored to their rightful place as arbiters of the destiny of the republic."

THEY ARE USING the recall in several places where that reform has been adopted. The Denver News says: "The petition for the recall of Alderman Cornelius C. Worrall, signed by 1909 registered voters of the Ninth ward was filed with City Clerk Burt F. Davis yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. By the provisions of the initiative, referendum and recall amendment to the city charter the clerk immediately must transmit the petition to the election commission, which then will proceed carefully to check the signatures of the voters. Protests can be made by any qualified elector within five days of the date of filing. The protested signers then must be notified within twenty-four hours by the election commission and must appear at a designated place to combat the charges. All such hearings must be concluded within fifteen days of the date of filing the petition. The names of 1,411 voters are required for the success of the present recall petition. If it appears to contain the requisite number of signatures it will be returned to the city clerk and by him transmitted to the council, which is bound by the amendment then to call a special election to determine the successor of Alderman Worrall. 'We have taken great care to secure only registered voters as signers,' said Halsted L. Ritter, chairman of the recall committee, last night. 'Each worker in charge of a petition was accompanied by a notary public and every signature was taken under oath that the signer was a qualified elector.'"

THE ST. LOUIS Censor says: "Mr. Bryan suggests that if the New Jersey senatorship is shaping itself to disposal in the usual way, that a better way would be to put it up at auction and sell it to the highest bidder. In the circumstances such a method would certainly be an improvement. If we are to continue the old system, instead of being allowed to elect our senators by a direct vote of the people, the auction plan would be a decided advantage to the people. Always heretofore, the method has been one of unlimited intrigue and chicanery. Not all of our senators have bought their seats, but enough have certainly done so to make the senate a disgrace to the nation. The auction system has much to recommend it, not the least benefit being a species of honesty. It would be a scheme of open and notorious venality rather than a dark and evil burrowing in corruption. By the auction system the money, which now goes to crooked legislatures, would be some small return at least for the issuance of letters of marque to some man acting as the agent of the interests which might expect to prey on the people."

ARICHMOND, (Va.) Times dispatch says: "According to the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American, 'an important movement is on foot among the Jesuits of the various Jesuit colleges in the United States for giving a complimentary dinner in this city (Washington) to Justice White of the United States supreme court.' The dinner is to be given, if the plans of the promoters of this movement shall succeed, at the Metropolitan club, and will be the occasion of forming into a national organization the men of prominence in affairs who were graduates of the Jesuit colleges of all the southern states, from Louisiana to New York, including, of course, the Jesuit colleges in Maryland. The date of the